

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend Fig. 3 by replacing the reference number “360” indicating the “I/O INTERFACE” with the reference number “365.” Revised Fig. 3 is reproduced below and a replacement sheet is filed herewith.

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Official Action mailed **June 21, 2005**. Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Status:

By the forgoing amendment, the specification and various claims have been amended. Additionally, new claims 37-50 have been added. No original claims have been cancelled. Thus, claims 1-50 are currently pending for the Examiner's consideration.

Allowed Claims and Subject Matter:

In the recent Office Action, claims 23-26 and 33-36 were allowed. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the allowance of these claims.

Additionally, the Examiner indicated the presence of allowable subject matter in dependent claims 2 and 11-22. Again, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, claim 11 has been amended herein and rewritten as an independent claim. Therefore, following entry of this amendment, claims 11-22 should be in condition for immediate allowance based on the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter in those claims.

Additionally, the subject matter originally contain in claim 2 has been added to claim 1. Therefore, for this and the additional reasons given below, claim 1 and its dependent claims should be in condition for allowance following entry of this amendment.

Objection to Drawings:

The recent Office Action objected to the drawings of the application because the reference number “280” was used in the specification and not in the drawings. In response, Applicant has deleted the reference number “280” from the specification, which referred to an element that is not a part of, or directly related to, the claimed subject.

The drawings were also objected to because reference number “365” was used in the specification and not in the drawings and because two elements in Fig. 3 were designated using reference number “360.” Accordingly, Applicant proposes herein to amend Fig. 3 to include the reference number “365,” indicating the “I/O INTERFACE.” This amendment addresses both of these objections to the drawings and does not introduce new matter. Therefore, acceptance of the amendment to Fig. 3 and withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Specification:

The recent Office Action next objected to the specification due to minor informalities on pages 4 and 5. These informalities have been corrected by the present amendment. Thus, following entry of this amendment, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Prior Art:

With regard to the prior art, claims 1, 3-7 and 9 were rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 6,381,435 to Shinohara et al. (“Shinohara”). For at least the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites:

A method of confirming operation of at least one printing system component, comprising:
forming at least one pattern on a marking material receiving part;
inspecting said marking material receiving part with a sensor configured to detect the presence of said pattern;
confirming operation of at least one printing system component based on detection of said with said sensor; and
selectively operating or disabling a printing system depending on whether said sensor signals positive detection of said pattern.

(emphasis added).

In contrast, the method taught by Shinohara does not, and is not intended to, “confirm operation” of printing system components. Rather, Shinohara teaches a system in which marks are made to detect “positional deviation” or “image density regulation.” (Shinohara, abstract). Thus, Shinohara does not teach or suggest a method of confirming operation of at least one printing system component that includes forming and inspecting a pattern and “selectively operating or disabling a printing system depending on whether said sensor signals positive detection of said pattern.” Based on the indicated allowability of original claim 2, Applicant believes the Office will agree with this assessment of Shinohara’s teachings.

"A claim is anticipated [under 35 U.S.C. § 102] only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (emphasis added). See M.P.E.P. § 2131. Therefore, for at least this reason, the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims based on Shinohara is no longer appropriate and should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 8 was rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combined teachings of Shinohara and U.S. Patent No. 5,499,092 to Sasaki (“Sasaki”). This rejection is

respectfully traversed for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 1, from which claim 8 depends.

Claim 10 was rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combined teachings of Shinohara and U.S. Patent No. 5,715,498 to Takeuchi (“Takeuchi”). This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 1, from which claim 10 ultimately depends.

Claims 27-32 were rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combined teachings of Shinohara, Takeuchi and Sasaki. This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 27 recites:

A printing system, comprising:
a plurality of print cartridges, each configured to form a rotation detection mark on a marking material receiving part during a startup operation;
at least one sensor configured to sense said rotation detection marks; and
a controller configured to selectively operate or disable said printing system in response to whether said sensor signals positive detection of said rotation detection marks.
(emphasis added).

In contrast, none of the three prior art references in the proposed combination teaches or suggests the claimed controller that is “configured to selectively operate or disable said printing system in response to whether said sensor signals positive detection of said rotation detection marks.” As demonstrated above, Shinohara, in particular, contains no such teaching and does not disclose a printing system with such capability.

“To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580

(CCPA 1974)." M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Accord. M.P.E.P. § 706.02(j). For at least this reason, the rejection of claim 27 and its dependent claims is no longer appropriate and should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

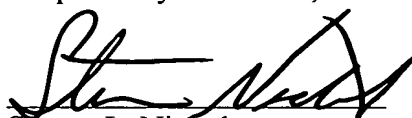
Conclusion:

The newly added claims are thought to be patentable over the prior art of record for at least the same reasons given above with respect to the original independent claims.

Therefore, examination and allowance of the newly added claims is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is thought to be clearly in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the application in light of these remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven L. Nichols
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DATE: 4 October 2005

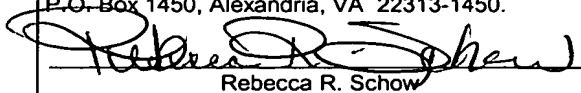
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

DATE OF DEPOSIT: October 4, 2005

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on the date indicated above in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



Rebecca R. Schow